

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks/arguments.
2. Claims 1, 5-12, 19-21, 23-26, 30-34, 39, 40, and 44-47 were pending. Applicants have chosen to amend the claims in order to accept subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner. Therefore, claims 1, 19, 20, 21, 30, 32, 33, 34, 44, 45, 46, and 47 have been amended; claims 7, 8, and 31 have been canceled; and new claims 48-55 have been added. Thus, claims 1, 5, 6, 9-12, 19-21, 23-26, 30, 32-34, 39, 40, and 44-55 are now pending. Applicants' amendment of the application should not be construed as agreement with the grounds of rejection set forth by the Examiner or acquiescence thereto. Applicants reserve the right to pursue relinquished subject matter and/or additional subject matter in one or more continuing applications.
3. The Examiner indicated that claims 5 and 6 are allowed.
Claims 5 and 6 have been retained without change.
4. The Examiner indicated that claim 8 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rather than amending claim 8 into independent form and incorporating the limitations of claims 1 and 7, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 7 and 8, and claims 7 and 8 have been canceled. Claim 1 is now in allowable form. Claims 9-12, which depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 1, have been retained without change. Because a dependent claim is deemed to include all limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims, dependent claims 9-12 are also in allowable form.

5. The Examiner indicated that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rather than amending claim 9 into independent form and incorporating the limitations of claim 1, new claim 48, including all of the limitations of previously presented claims 1 and 9, has been added. Claim 48 is in allowable form. New claims 49-51, corresponding to claims 10-12, have also been added. Because a dependent claim is deemed to include all limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims, dependent claims 49-51 are also in allowable form.

6. The Examiner indicated that claim 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rather than amending claim 20 into independent form and incorporating the limitations of claim 19, claim 19 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 20. Claim 19 is now in allowable form. Claim 20 has been amended to incorporate limitations from claim 9. Because a dependent claim is deemed to include all limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims, dependent claim 20 is also in allowable form.

7. The Examiner indicated that claim 31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rather than amending claim 31 into independent form and incorporating the limitations of claims 21 and 30, claim 21 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 30 and 31. Claim 30 has been amended to incorporate limitations from claim 9. Claim 31 has been canceled. Claim 21 is now in allowable form. Claims 23-26, which depend directly or indirectly from amended claim 21, have been retained without change. Because a dependent claim is deemed to include all limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims, dependent claims 23-26 and 30 are also in allowable form.

8. The Examiner indicated that claim 33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rather than amending claim 33 into independent form and incorporating the limitations of claim 32, claim 32 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 33. Claim 32 has also been amended to provide antecedent basis for the undercut features. Claim 32 is now in allowable form. Claim 33 has been amended to incorporate limitations from claim 9. Because a dependent claim is deemed to include all limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims, dependent claim 33 is also in allowable form.

9. The Examiner indicated that claim 46 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rather than amending claim 46 into independent form and incorporating the limitations of claim 45, claim 45 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 46. Claim 45 is now in allowable form. Claim 46 has been amended to incorporate limitations similar to those in claim 9. Because a dependent claim is deemed to include all limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims, dependent claim 46 is also in allowable form.

10. Claim 34 is a method claim that corresponds generally with claim 1. Because the Examiner indicated that claims 8 and 9 contained allowable subject matter, Applicants have amended claim 34 to comport with amended claim 1, specifically incorporating limitations from previously presented claims 44 and 8. Claims 39 and 40 have been retained without change. Claim 44 has been amended to incorporate limitations from previously presented claim 9. Applicants have also added new claim 52 comporting with new claim 48, specifically incorporating limitations from previously presented claims 34 and 9, and added new claims 53 and 54 corresponding to claims 39 and 40. Applicants respectfully submit that, for at least the reasons claims 8 and 9 were deemed to be allowable by the Examiner, claims 34, 39, 40, 44, and 52-54 are also allowable.

11. Claim 47 is a method claim that corresponds generally with claim 34. Because the Examiner indicated that claims 8 and 9 contained allowable subject matter, Applicants have amended claim 47 in a manner similar to that of claim 34 and have added new claim 55 in a manner similar to amendment of claim 44. Applicants respectfully submit that, for at least the reasons claims 8 and 9 were deemed allowable by the Examiner, claims 47 and 55 are also allowable.

12. All pending claims are believed to be in a form suitable for allowance. Therefore, the application is believed to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully requests early allowance of the application. The Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned, Jeffrey T. Klayman, if it will assist further examination of this application.

13. Applicants petition for a three month extension of time. Applicants request that deposit account number 19-4972 be charged for any fees that may be required for the timely consideration of this application.

Date: July 30, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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